

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. TURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, if the government's handling of the outbreak of H1N1 flu, known as swine flu, is any indication of how it will administer a public health care option, we should all be greatly concerned. With the media reporting that lines of hundreds of people wait for H1N1 vaccinations, it took a Presidential national emergency declaration just to cut through the bureaucratic red tape.

If this Congress is serious about health care reform, why not start with simple principles on which most of us can agree, such as prohibiting insurance companies from denying coverage based on preexisting conditions, portability of health care coverage, investing in medical research to ensure quality care, deductibility of health insurance premiums, ensuring access to health savings accounts, limiting frivolous lawsuits which raise health care costs, and allowing small businesses to group together to negotiate insurance plans.

Instead of the President's sweeping overhaul, which will likely result in pitfalls, we should look at simple reforms to adhere to mutually agreed upon principles ensuring that those who have health insurance can keep it and those who don't can obtain it.

PROTECT COWORKERS FROM ASSAULT AND ATTACK

(Mr. MELANCON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MELANCON. Mr. Speaker, many of us have heard the terrible story of Jamie Leigh Jones, the employee of a U.S. defense contractor who was brutally attacked and sexually assaulted by coworkers while working in Iraq in 2005. Instead of being allowed to seek justice, Jamie Leigh was held in a shipping container by company employees so she couldn't report the crime.

When Jamie Leigh returned to the United States, she learned that a clause in her contract barred her from taking her case to court. Instead, it forced her into a company-run arbitration process; the same company that failed to protect her in the first place.

It is our responsibility to make sure that this horrific story can never happen again. No American citizen should ever have to sign away his or her rights to justice in order to get a job. Not a dime of taxpayer money should go to companies that would rather sweep an assault under the rug than allow our justice system to work.

The Franken amendment will forbid Federal dollars from going to companies that engage in these practices. If we fail to enact this measure, we have failed to protect the rights and values we were sworn to uphold when we took

our oath of office. We cannot let this happen again.

U.S. DOLLAR ALARM BELLS

(Mr. LANCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, for decades the U.S. dollar has been used to price virtually all of the world's commodities, with nearly every country having U.S.-backed securities in reserve; yet this could all change.

There is growing evidence suggesting that foreign investors are losing faith in the dollar as a secure instrument. Several important countries like China, India, Russia, France, and the Arab States voiced their concern over the role of the U.S. dollar as the reserve currency in world trade. Many have suggested a new world currency take its place.

A primary concern for those investing in the United States is the growing U.S. debt and staggering deficits. Yet, despite this, the majority party continues to push ahead with an agenda that taxes, spends, and borrows, including a health care proposal that could cost as much as \$800 billion to \$1 trillion over the next decade.

How many alarm bells must be set off before Washington gets serious about tackling our ever-growing debt and budget deficits?

BREAKING THE STALEMATE ON PUBLIC OPTION

(Ms. WATSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. WATSON. Mr. Speaker, we need to stop ranting and start reasoning. Health care providers have pushed against the public option, citing payment as one of their primary concerns. Instead of seeing the issue within the lens of payments based on Medicare rates versus negotiated ones, I believe we can attract health care providers to the public option with a new incentive to break the stalemate. Malpractice is a primary psychological, emotional issue with doctors, dentists, hospitals, administrators, and pharmacists.

Additionally, it is a principal issue of economic obsession with providers who bitterly resent paying for liability insurance. When it comes to you, it is not petty. If there is malpractice, you certainly want to contact an attorney.

Progressives have always championed community health centers. My proposal expands the liability program used by these community health centers.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. BONNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, there is an old saying, common in south Ala-

bama, that we need to practice what we preach. Well, if reports are accurate, it sounds like Congress will be moving forward with health care legislation that contains a government-run public option, no matter how hard the Democratic leadership might try to rebrand this poison pill.

Well, I am going to oppose with every ounce of me a Federal takeover of our health care system. I couldn't agree more with our friend Dr. JOHN FLEMING of Louisiana, who has introduced a resolution that says that any Member of Congress who votes for a public option should be the first one to sign up for it. After all, if a public option is good enough for you, Mr. and Mrs. Taxpayer, then your elected Representative should be the first to try it out.

This is especially true for our seniors who are looking at draconian cuts to Medicare, cuts to Medicare Advantage, and, according to the CBO, a 20 percent increase in their prescription drug premiums over the next decade, not to mention higher taxes for all Americans, just to help pay for this major step towards socialized medicine.

Practicing what we preach means just that. Congress won't ask the American people to take any poison that we don't take first.

HEALTH CARE

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, our Republican colleagues continue to amaze me with the creativity that they display in finding new ways to say "no" to health care reform.

First, a few weeks ago, it was Senator JOHN ENSIGN who said in the Finance Committee in the Senate, I am against the public option because—get this—it might work; people will like it. He was against it because people will like a public option.

Now, when we find out that the Senate has proposed an opt-out for the States, we are hearing from our opponents who say, well, they won't opt out, they just won't opt out. I wonder why. Probably because it would be effective in providing competition and choice for their constituents, for citizens of America who need affordable, secure health care.

That's what our efforts are for. That's what this bill is about. We need Republicans to stop saying "no" and to say "yes" to the health care that Americans deserve.

DON'T ROB SENIORS OF THEIR HEALTH CARE

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, as a family physician for over 30 years, I could have never imagined that the Democrats would come up with such a crazy idea as ObamaCare paid for on the backs of the American seniors.